

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BORDER SECURITY—NOW

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our brave men and women in the military are accompanied by other brave men and women who work hard to protect us. They are our border agents who guard our international boundaries, and they are now often serving in what amounts to a war zone.

In the fiscal year just ended, over 650 border agents reported being assaulted, the highest number since they began tracking these incidents in the 1990s. Compare that to last year's total of 354, and you have to wonder just how secure our borders are. Even with sensors and cameras and fences, that is not enough. Incidents have increased from San Diego to Nogales, Arizona to the banks of the Rio Grande in Texas. It is clear we are not getting the job done, and our efforts need to be strengthened.

If our agents have to dodge bullets, then who is controlling our borders? Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff said last week that when it comes to illegal immigration, time is not on our side. Mr. Speaker, Congress should take action now to secure our borders. Our Nation is not secure until our borders are secure. That is the necessary and first step to any immigration reform. H.R. 3693 is legislation that America needs now.

IMMIGRANT RIOTING IN FRANCE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, failure to integrate immigrants into a country's society is evident in the 11 days of rioting, looting, destruction, and lawlessness in France. With the 5 million Muslims in France, many of the youth feel disenfranchised and discriminated against by the French government. Some of these third-generation immigrants have turned to violence to get the attention of French authorities. Government buildings, private businesses, homes and over 1,300 cars have been burned.

It has been reported that some Muslim extremists are taking advantage of the riots and calling for jihad, or holy war. A French police official reportedly said that civil war is unfolding in France. France must find a better way

to assimilate the Muslim population into its culture. USA Today states that French President Jacques Chirac must restore order to prevent a clash of civilizations that is one of the greatest threats of the 21st century.

The lesson for us to learn is that we must encourage immigrants to assimilate into America, or we too could face difficulties in the future. Immigrants have the responsibility to become Americans, and America has the responsibility to provide immigrants access to America and teach them to be Americans. That's just the way it is.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, the Budget Committee's reconciliation bill is a vicious example of misguided fiscal and social priorities. To pay for tax cuts that benefit almost exclusively those whose income is over \$200,000 a year, the bill cuts assistance to families struggling to get by and pushes them right into poverty.

The bill guarantees that more foster children will grow up in poverty. \$4.9 billion is slashed from child support services. As a result, single mothers and their children will not receive the support payments owed to them, and many of those children will grow up in poverty.

\$844 million cut from food stamps will push another 300,000 children and adults in low-income and immigrant families below the poverty threshold. One in five children in this country already grow up in poverty. It is unconscionable to deliberately increase that number. For what? So that the wealthiest 3 percent of Americans can have another huge tax cut.

AMERICANS APPRECIATE FRANCE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Americans were saddened over the weekend to see rioters spread fire and violence across France with nearly 5,000 vehicles burned, stretching into the heart of Paris. As a person of French heritage, I am particularly shocked that 34 police officers are injured, including 10 wounded by gunshots. This outburst of violence is a chilling reminder that appeasement is a failed course which leads to greater violence.

I am particularly disappointed France did not show resolve in the Cold War as defenders of freedom actively defeated Communism, and I am disappointed France has not shown resolve in the global war on terrorism, as we resist terrorists from London to Baghdad to Bali. But our hearts and our heritage are with France, which we treasure as America's first ally. With

resolve we can stop extremism at its source; peace can be restored.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL'S DECLARATION ON THE RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 260) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*, and the continuing need for mutual inter-religious respect and dialogue, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 260

Whereas 2005 marks the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the declaration on the relation of the Roman Catholic Church to non-Christian religions;

Whereas on October 28, 1965, after the overwhelmingly affirmative vote of the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Paul VI issued *Nostra Aetate*, which means "in our time";

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* affirmed the respect of the Roman Catholic Church for Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, and exhorted Catholics to engage in "dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions";

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* made possible a new relationship between Catholics and Jews worldwide and opened a chapter in Jewish-Christian relations that is unprecedented in its closeness and warmth;

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* states that the Roman Catholic Church "decries hatred, persecution, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone"; and

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* clearly states that "No foundation therefore remains for any theory or practice that leads to discrimination between man and man or people and people, so far as their human dignity and the rights flowing from it are concerned." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the declaration on the relation of the Roman Catholic Church to non-Christian religions;

(2) appreciates the role of the Holy See in combating religious intolerance and religious discrimination;

(3) encourages the United States to continue to serve in a leading role in combating anti-Semitism and other forms of religious